

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

Protestant growth brings change in Latin America

By Mary E. Speidel

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP) — Historian Arnaldo Canclini has made history in Argentina as the first Protestant invited to join a national academic society.

Canclini, also an Argentine Baptist pastor, recently was named to the National Academy of History, one of 16 societies honoring Argentina's leaders in the arts, sciences, and other disciplines.

Ten years ago he never dreamed he would be named to the prestigious academy, whose membership is largely Roman Catholic. "It's really a high honor for the whole evangelical population," said Canclini, who has written more than 60 books, many on Protestant history.

David Barrett, consultant at the FMB research center, believes it's

correct to say Christianity in general is "exploding" in Latin America but added "it's been exploding for a long time, over the past 100 years."

He cited statistics to support that view. During the past century Protestant evangelicals alone have grown steadily from 760,000 in 1900 to 18 million in the mid-1980s with a projected total of 34 million by the year 2000. The Christian population in Latin America is expected to be 571 million by the year 2,000 — 92% of the entire population.

Barrett said recent growth in Latin America is greatest among the charismatic movement in mainline churches, including Catholics, followed by Pentecostals and Baptists.

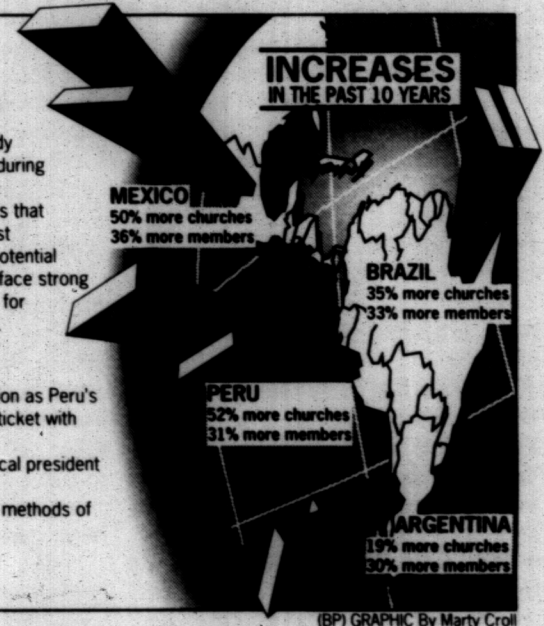
Speidel writes for FMB.

Harvest time in Latin America

Baptists in Latin America show steady growth. Bars at right indicate gains during the past decade. These gains were reported by Baptists in four countries that relate to the work of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. Despite their potential for growth, Latin American Baptists face strong competition and recognize the need for better discipleship of new members.

Evangelical stigma dissolves

- In June 1990, a Baptist won election as Peru's second vice president running on ticket with a Roman Catholic.
- In January 1991, the first evangelical president is elected in Guatemala.
- Roman Catholics begin trying new methods of evangelism.



Sweeping response

Nicaraguan worshippers pray at the altar of Managua's International Baptist Church during a service led by Southern Baptist missionary Jim Palmer (left). In Nicaragua and throughout traditionally Catholic Latin America, Protestantism attracts growing numbers of followers. Some researchers say the number of the region's Protestants has tripled since the late 1960s. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Minister spends weekdays in UM law school while maintaining pastorate in New Orleans

UNIVERSITY, Miss. — At 62 years young, Joe Lovelady just completed his first semester of law school at The University of Mississippi. He did so while continuing to pastor the small East Edgewater Church in New Orleans on weekends.

That belief, as well as another that churches need additional legal assistance because they are being sued so often, cinched Lovelady's decision to pursue a law degree.

"When he told me, I thought, 'We're 62 years old, and he's going to start a whole new life.' I had to get over the shock, but I'm behind him 100%," said Betty, his wife of 42 years.

During the week, the couple lives

with Joe's brother Bill and his wife, Dot, in Oxford, where Joe was born and raised. On Friday afternoons, the couple heads for Clinton to spend the night with their son Rendy and his family. Betty drives while Joe prepares his sermons.

While at Ole Miss in 1953, he felt the call to preach and transferred to Mississippi College, where he played tackle on the football team and received a professional football inquiry from the Chicago Cardinals (now the Phoenix Cards), which he turned down. He next went to New Orleans Seminary, where — in addition to coaching basketball and football — he earned master of divinity, master of theology;

and doctor of ministry degrees.

Studying law has already provided Lovelady with a few revelations. Having always believed that religion is a major cohesive element for the home and society, Lovelady was intrigued to learn "that the law has no basis for enforcing a moral obligation."

Upon learning Lovelady was going to law school, one man wrote and asked, "Joe, how can you go from the highest profession in the world to the lowest?"

Reaction from students on campus has been varied. "When I first came, I had several ask about me. One of them said, 'What are you doing here?' I said I just wasn't ready to die."

Carter endorses Fellowship

ATLANTA (ABP) — Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn, have issued a strong endorsement of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Carter has agreed to speak to the Fellowship's general assembly in May. "Rosalyn and I have been increasingly uncomfortable with policies of the dominant clique in the Southern Baptist Convention," Carter said from his office at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta. "However, we are still Southern Baptists who wish to support the fine mission programs of which we have been proud since childhood."

"We will just be two more loyal Baptists who will cooperate with others who make the CBF a positive, dynamic, and expanding force for Christ. Although it is likely that our own Maranatha Church in Plains (Ga.) will remain in the SBC, we will share our personal gifts, time, and influence with CBF. One of our common goals will be to work and pray for an ultimate healing among presently divided Baptists."

At the Fellowship's assembly, Carter will deliver the keynote address during the evening session May 13.

Mo. governor is pro-choice

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Missouri's new governor, Baptist layman Mel Carnahan, has listed education and jobs as his top priorities and identified himself as pro-choice. Carnahan, a member of First Baptist Church in Rolla, Mo., since 1959, has been a deacon, Sunday School teacher, committee chairman, and choir member, reported the Word & Way, the state's Southern Baptist newsjournal. Calling for "world-class schools" in Missouri, where only one in four high school students fails to graduate, Carnahan said education remains "the shortest distance between where we are and where we dream to be." In an interview with the Word & Way, Carnahan said he opposes further restrictions on abortion in Missouri. Asked if he feels "totally comfortable" with that position as a Christian and a Southern Baptist, Carnahan said, "I certainly do. I would say to you that I am prayerfully and deliberately pro-choice." Of his faith, Carnahan said, "I think it's given me an anchor when there are lots of fluid uncertainties. It's given me a hope that God really does work in mysterious ways his wonders to perform. I've had crushing defeats politically, but I was not personally defeated."

Briefly...

Bethea book

A book is being written about Mississippian Lynda Bethea, missionary killed in March 1991 while serving in Kenya. If you have any letters from or pictures of Lynda, you may wish to contact Janice Byrd, 314 Randy Lee Lane, McKinney, TX 75070 or call (214) 542-7389.

Economics

Larry Burkett's new book, *The Coming Economic Earthquake*, has sold more than 600,000 copies. The Georgia Baptist layman maintains that our national debt of \$4 trillion (\$65,000 for each family of four) can no longer be supported by the American economy. Other economists say Burkett's scenario is unlikely.

Nicaragua

Mobile, Ala. (BP) — Mobile College has announced plans to open a branch campus in San Marcos, Nicaragua, in August 1993 to serve Latin American students and provide a "beachhead" for Baptists in the region, according to President Michael Magnoli.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Taking a stance, not choosing sides

What was unwanted in 1888, but needed today? Try the Woman's Missionary Union. In 1884 the Foreign Mission Board drafted a statement that "no reader of the New Testament... can fail to be impressed with the prominence given women in the propagation of the gospel."

Prophetic words indeed! In 1888 the WMU was organized and became an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. Bear in mind women did not have national voting privileges and I suspect their presence at the SBC was questioned. Not all males in the Convention were overjoyed over this WMU; state papers wrote articles pro and con. It took Mississippians a year, but in 1889 we had "wheeled into line" and all states were participants by 1890.

The first Lottie Moon offering in 1888 was \$3,315; the goal for 1992 is \$88 million. The WMU has rescued the Foreign and Home Mission Boards from indebtedness several times since its inception. Once in 1916 the FMB had a debt of \$180,000. The WMU resolved to wipe out \$60,000 of it in 60 days and exceeded the amount in a whirlwind campaign.

Mississippi had women involved in missions while we were still a territory prior to 1817. The Ladies Charitable Mission Society reported to the Convention for a number

of years. In 1839 the Southwestern Home Mission Society (Natchez) sent its first missionary to Texas and the Ladies Society in Columbus agreed to pay half his salary.

All this history — 175 years of missionary endeavor — emphasizes the fact that women will continue to be leaders in missionary outreach.

Today there is a strained relationship between the WMU and SBC leadership. The auxiliary status has been questioned. The WMU has been "invited" to become an agency or board of the Convention. Maybe they still remember the reluctance of the SBC in 1888, or perhaps they are looking at the way the SBC has treated some of their other agencies and boards. "No thanks, we will remain an auxiliary and govern ourselves; moreover, we will continue to support and pray for our mission boards and will continue to work with any church in mission education and prayer support," in essence has been their response.

"The WMU is at a crossroad," declared Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director. In a second breath, the WMU leadership observed that "SBC" meant "Southern Baptist Churches" to them, and if necessary they could change things to meet at some time and place other than the

SBC's annual meeting... if the brethren so desired.

SBC Executive Committee president, Morris Chapman, said they need a "clarification" from the WMU. He was saddened by the decision and said the SBC-WMU traditional auxiliary relationship has served us well for 104 years but this action will raise grave concern in the hearts of most Southern Baptists.

Don Kammerdiener, interim FMB president, said he needed time to study the WMU vote. Larry Lewis, HMB president, praised the work of the WMU and then added a "however." "I question the wisdom of any SBC agency or auxiliary identifying in a supportive way with any schismatic group that has set itself against SBC leaders and agencies." Shades of 1888!

No doubt all of this will be ironed out in the future, and missionary education and support will continue. The struggle, though interesting, will be of little benefit in the long run. The SBC certainly has the right to ask the WMU to refrain from broadening their auxiliary status and the WMU has the right to refuse. Let's mark it down to "the times in which we live" and get on with our mission... which is what the WMU intends to do. O'Brien said the WMU has "taken a stance... not taken sides."

Southern Baptist Clinton calls for sacrifice at inauguration

By Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP) — William Jefferson Clinton, taking office as the 42nd president of the United States and the third Southern Baptist to govern from the White House, pronounced the beginning of a "new season of American renewal" which would require sacrifice from the country's citizens.

The "urgent question of our time is whether we can make change our friend and not our enemy," Clinton said in his Jan. 20 inaugural speech. The economy, crime, and the plight of children indicate "we have not made change our friend," Clinton said.

"We know we have to face hard truths and take strong steps, but we have not done so," the former governor of Arkansas said. "Instead, we have drifted."

"There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America," said Clinton, a member of Immanuel

Church in Little Rock, Ark.

"It will not be easy. It will require sacrifice, but it can be done and done fairly, not choosing sacrifice for its own sake but for our sake."

While the new president called for Americans to embrace change, evangelist Billy Graham requested in an inaugural prayer a change of heart produced by God.

Americans "cannot say that we are a righteous people, for we are not," Graham said in his invocation at the ceremony. "We have sinned against you. We have sown to the wind and are now reaping a whirlwind of crime, drug abuse, racism, immorality, and social injustice. We need to repent of our sins and turn by faith to you."

Graham, like Clinton, is a member of a Southern Baptist church, First Church in Dallas.

Clinton, who first joined a Southern Baptist church as a child in Hot Springs, Ark., became the

first Democrat since Jimmy Carter to serve as president. Carter, who attended the ceremony with his wife, Rosalyn, also is a Southern Baptist. Harry Truman was a Southern Baptist, too. The only other president identified as a Baptist was Warren Harding, who was not Southern Baptist.

The new vice president, Al Gore, also is a Southern Baptist. He and his family are members of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Arlington, Va.

Clinton and Gore's support for abortion and homosexual rights has brought clear opposition from many of their fellow church members in the country's largest non-Catholic denomination. At least 11 state Southern Baptists conventions passed resolutions in fall meetings expressing disagreement with their positions.

While largely avoiding discussion of precise policies, Clinton's (See CLINTON on page 10)

May The Book Remain In Hand



Clarke College revisited

The grounds are lovely; stately water oaks, laden with moss and lichens scattered around the lower limbs, still dot the campus. The buildings, in need of repair, still speak of the days when they were used by a generation of students. A Japanese magnolia is set to explode into bloom and the shrubs soaked up the rain and bided their days 'til spring.

In the administration building the trophy case was still full. The empty business office, the offices of academic dean, alumni affairs, admissions, and financial aid bore testimony to the time of heavy activity.

At every turn I was reminded of the spiritual impact Clarke College had made on our state. The faded glory had reluctantly departed but posters, bulletin boards, and school announcements remained with their messages. The book store's plywood announcement space revealed humans, disdaining paper messages, had carved on the plywood:

"I love Randy" — whether agape or not remains unknown.

"Candi & Teddy" proclaimed a bit of permanence with "Forever

and a day" beneath their names.

"T.J. wuz here," obviously searching for an education and "Hambone and Lisa's" inscription declares for future archeologists their togetherness.

One zealous student, apparently overwhelmed with the bard on the Avon, scratched "Shakespeare" as his contribution.

In the lobby the steel gray eyes of founder N.L. Clarke took in all the proceedings from a dusty portrait.

Across the way a bronzed Moses holding the Ten Commandments, sat on a shelf of the library, surrounded by commentaries and encyclopedia. Thousands of students had clawed their ways through these books, studied and courted — not necessarily in that order — as they received an education and gave life to the school.

Now the spirit of Clarke remains, but the life is gone. Even so, it still gives eloquent testimony to the sacrifice of parents, students, teachers, school presidents, and friends, who under the direction of an Almighty God, wrought miracles and blazed a trail of righteousness across our state. — GH

On one occasion someone asked C.H. Spurgeon if he thought those who had never heard the gospel would be lost anyway. Spurgeon replied, "For me, the question is not, 'Are the heathen lost without the gospel?' Rather, 'Am I saved if I have the gospel and fail to share it with others?'"

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O'Brien reassures FMB missionaries

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) — The relationship between Woman's Missionary Union and the Foreign Mission Board's missionaries has not changed, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien assured missionaries Jan. 17.

"What we want you to know is that WMU loves you and will pray for you and support you. And that message comes loud and clear today just as it did almost 105 years ago" when WMU began, O'Brien told furloughing missionaries during a worship service at the Foreign Mission Board's Mis-

sionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

"You are still the reason we exist and we have recommitted ourselves to be better supporters of yours," she commented before moving into a message on needs in America and the world and how Christians are called to meet them.

O'Brien's assurance came a few days after the WMU executive board made decisions which, she has said, should allow the organization to be the one entity that can relate to all Southern Baptists interested in missions.

MC football program hit with probation by NCAA

By Don McGregor

CLINTON, Miss. (ABP) — Mississippi College, the largest educational institution of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, has had its football program placed on probation by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The college was the 1989 national football champion in the NCAA's Division II.

The probation covers a four-year span, bans the school from live television coverage of its games in 1993, and reduces the number of football scholarships that would be available. It also strips the school of its national championship.

The NCAA reported that during the 1989-90 academic year there were grants in aid to 98 student athletes totalling \$258,606. The limit for Division II schools is 40.

Mississippi College admits guilt and says that it reported the violations to the NCAA. College officials, however, point out that some of those scholarships were less than full scholarships, which is

legal.

The college is limited to 30 scholarships during the probation period. The coach who headed the athletic program during the period of the violations is no longer at the school.

Harry Vickery of Greenville, chairman of trustees for the college, told the *Baptist Record* that the president of the school, Lewis Nobles, had reported the violations a year ago following months of investigation.

"The president and his staff have taken remedial action," Vickery said. "On behalf of the trustees and staff, we do not intend for this to happen again. We are embarrassed, we are hurt, we admit our guilt, we reported our guilt, and we press on."

Mississippi College has about 4,200 students enrolled in all of its programs.

McGregor is editor emeritus, *Mississippi BAPTIST RECORD*.

Statement by Mississippi College Board of Trustees

Mississippi College has violated National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules. The violations that were reported by NCAA in their report of last week were reported to NCAA by Mississippi College approximately a year ago after months of investigation by an appointed investigative committee, appointed by Lewis Nobles, president (of Mississippi College).

What was reported by NCAA in their report, the information, the evidence, was first given to them by President Nobles and the investigative committee with the support of the (Mississippi College Board of) Trustees. Every violation alluded to in the NCAA report was first reported by the college. On three occasions within the past year, NCAA officials have been on campus. Complete cooperation was afforded them, as they reported.

The president and his staff have taken remedial action. On behalf of the trustees and staff, we do not intend for this to happen again. We are embarrassed, we are hurt, we admit our guilt, we reported our guilt, and we press on.

— Harry E. Vickery, President of the Mississippi College Board of Trustees

(Editor's note: After this statement was received, Vickery said in a telephone conversation with Bill Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, that the trustees are embarrassed and disappointed, and they apologize to all Mississippi Baptists. He said that the trustees and the administration would not have had it happen for anything, being very sensitive to the testimony of the Christian school. He added that they are taking every precaution to see that it never happens again.)

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Exec. Committee chooses 12 to decide Clarke College fate

By Tim Nicholas

A committee of 12, plus five ex officio members, has been chosen by the MCB Executive Committee to begin determining what to do with the Clarke College property.

Clarke, in Newton, closed its doors last spring after Mississippi College trustees, who operated the junior college, decided that declining finances, declining enrollment, and loss of accreditation made continuation of the school too dif-

ficult. Properties were turned over to the convention board with the convention voting last November for the Executive Committee to name the committee which will suggest what to do with the property.

Executive Committee chairman Jim Futral of Jackson said there were to be no time restraints on the committee. Any proposals for property lease or sale must be approved by the Executive Com-

mittee, the convention board, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Executive Committee members noted that the committee is not being formed to consider re-opening Clarke College. "That was decided at the convention," said one. Another consideration would be that any use of the property had to be self-supporting. And Executive Committee members wanted it known that they had sought committee members "with unprejudiced views."

Executive Director Bill Causey said the committee will need to consider both the spiritual impact and the economic impact on any decision. Said Causey, "This committee might conceive an idea that God has wanted done for some time."

Cost of upkeep of the Clarke property is approximately \$50,000 per year, not counting some income from housing rental and floor space leased to the adjacent La-Z-Boy Company.

Executive Committee members worked for an inclusive committee with both men and women, laymen and ministers, and with local and statewide representation.

The committee consists of Larry (See CLARKE on page 10)



Members of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board prepare to leave the Clarke campus after appointing a committee to determine disposition of Clarke property. The Executive Committee also authorized funds for re-roofing the president's home at Clarke.

Land decries Clinton's abortion acts

By Richard D. Land

"Today is a sad day for America and a horrifying day for unborn children. The new president has taken actions, in his very first week, which will further devalue human life and which will result in the deaths of untold millions at the hands of abortionists."

"As if to add insult to injury, President Clinton takes these actions on the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. These are truly cruel and spiteful acts meant to break the

will of the pro-life movement and fly in the face of a humane America."

"It will not work. We are more resolved than ever that unborn human life is sacred and must be accorded equal protection under the laws and Constitution of our land. We will not retreat from our conviction that a nation which allows the slaughter of the most defenseless human beings of our society is a nation which will reap a whirlwind of cheapened and

degraded life at all points in the life cycle.

"If our nation continues its present path of exalting a 'quality of life' ethic over a 'sanctity of human life' ethic, President Clinton himself may one day reap the consequences of this exchange when the logical conclusion of his policies is applied to him in his 'golden years.'"

"It is clear to us that President Clinton has begun his presidency by rapidly accelerating America's drift toward neo-paganism. The gauntlet has been thrown down in the struggle for our nation's conscience and soul. We must take up the struggle for the heart, mind, and soul of America."

"We must pray as never before, work with renewed vigor and fight with unflagging resolve in the moral and cultural conflict that will no doubt mark the next four years. In the words of John Paul Jones, 'We have not yet begun to fight.'"

Title X regulations
"Rescinding the Title X pro-life (See LAND on page 10)

Elliff may be FMB candidate

The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, in its Jan. 23 issue, has suggested that Tom Elliff will be nominated as the new head of the Foreign Mission Board, replacing Don Kammerdiener, interim president.

Ed Briggs, staff writer, says word of Elliff's candidacy emerged in a recent comment by John Jackson, chairman of the FMB trustees. According to Briggs, Jackson stated that a candidate had been selected and was

undergoing a medical check-up.

Board sources said that "Elliff was checked in the past two to three days at the Ken Cooper Clinic in Dallas," Briggs reported.

Elliff, pastor of First Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., served more than two years in Zimbabwe as a missionary.

The Search Committee agreed to complete secrecy on the nominee until Feb. 8, at which time the person's name would be released to the FMB trustees.



Trotter honored with organ

An anonymous supporter has donated a new Allen digital organ to the Department of Music at Mississippi College in honor of Billy Ruel Trotter, assistant professor of music (above, seated, with Richard Joiner, also of the MC Department of Music). Trotter, a member of MC's music faculty for 27 years, has specialized in preparing students for organ performance and ministry. He teaches applied organ, theory, and service playing, is the accompanist for the Concert Singers, and is organist at Northminster Church, Jackson. The gift organ can record internally and features a headphone system which enables students to practice without disturbing others. It is housed in the Aven Fine Arts Building on campus.

Budget planners tout CP's accomplishments

NASHVILLE (BP) — While making their cases for allocations of Cooperative Program funds for next year, leaders of Southern Baptist agencies and institutions did a little bragging.

During presentations to the program and budget subcommittee of the Executive Committee, the leaders highlighted accomplishments of the past year made possible by gifts to the unified budget plan.

Here are some of the accomplishments highlighted:

— The Foreign Mission Board

Business officers schedule March meeting in Texas

The Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference is scheduled for March 15-17 at the offices of the Annuity Board in Dallas.

Theme of the conference will be "Diversity in Unity, Many Methods - One Purpose."

Plenary sessions will be led by Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.; and Fred Roach, president, Leadership Center, Dallas.

Officers of agencies, institutions, and churches are invited to attend. Reservation deadline is Feb. 19. For more information, contact Vickie Wilson at the Annuity Board, P.O. Box 2190, Dallas, TX 75221-2190.

operates with only about 12% of its gifts used for administration.

— Southern Baptist representatives now work in 25 of 31 provinces in mainland China, a nation generally considered closed to traditional missionary endeavors.

— Baptist bodies overseas affiliated with the FMB recorded 251,000 baptisms last year, exceeding the previous record of 233,000 baptisms.

— Baptists overseas affiliated with the FMB started 1,605 new churches last year.

— Expansion of the broadcast markets available to the Radio and Television Commission brought response from previously unresponsive territories. In the heavily Mormon state of Utah, RTVC programs drew seven calls for spiritual assistance in the last two months of 1992, whereas no calls from Utah had been received before.

— Two one-hour inspirational programs were produced by the RTVC to air on national TV networks.

— Personnel supported by the Home Mission Board led 44,030 people to profess faith in Jesus Christ last year.

— Retired ministers living on poverty-level incomes received relief assistance totalling \$726,312 from the Annuity Board. An average recipient is 77 years old with monthly income of \$577 and monthly expenses of \$686.

Lean giving & SBC changes fuel budget hearing scrutiny

NASHVILLE (BP) — The decreasing revenues available through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program — combined with advances in alternative funding plans — colored discussions about future SBC budgets Jan. 20-21.

Members of the SBC Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee wrestled for two days with the difficult question of how to reduce 1993-94 CP allocations by 1.4%.

They also gathered information about how much money the SBC's agencies, institutions, and commissions are receiving from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or are giving to Woman's Missionary Union.

The CBF, a group of moderate Baptists displeased with convention leadership, has established an alternative giving mechanism that passes some money on to SBC entities while bypassing the CP structure.

WMU recently voted to expand its traditional support of the SBC Home and Foreign Mission Boards to include the CBF and other evangelical groups. That decision was not well received among the SBC's conservative leaders, who believe the CBF is becoming an independent denomination that will drain resources from the SBC.

During presentations to the subcommittee in Nashville, heads of SBC agencies, institutions, and commissions often took pains to demonstrate their support for the traditional CP plan. Some also were careful to distance them-

selves from the CBF, even though their organizations have received contributions through the Fellowship.

Each leader had been asked in advance to provide an accounting of how much CBF money their organization had received in the previous year. The 18 entities said they received a total of \$3.13 million from the CBF in 1991-92.

The largest portion of that money went to the Foreign Mission Board: \$1.76 million. Some subcommittee members questioned whether the CP allocation to the FMB ought to be adjusted downward to compensate for its extra revenue from the CBF.

However, a consensus developed that predicting future CBF contributions to SBC entities would be impossible. Some also expressed concern that the Executive Committee's process not be driven by responding to the Fellowship's actions.

Faced with a mandatory CP budget reduction, some subcommittee members wanted to know if FMB and Home Mission Board leaders still had confidence in WMU to raise money on their behalf through the two annual missions offerings. WMU traditionally has raised large portions of the FMB's and HMB's annual budgets through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

Subcommittee members also questioned the budgeting of mission board funds to WMU for offering promotion and other needs.

Denominational politics aside, the subcommittee heard repeated reports of how declining offerings are severely hampering some agencies, institutions, and commissions.

Two other common factors cited in reports are drastically increasing medical insurance costs and decreased earnings on investments due to lower interest rates.

For example, the cost of providing medical insurance for HMB staff and missionaries will increase nearly \$1 million next year but the proposed CP budget will give the HMB a decrease rather than an increase.

Several entities reported they are at the point of having to lay off personnel or eliminate programs if further budget reductions are required.

For example, the written report of Southern Seminary said 1992-93 expenditures already have been reduced \$485,000 and "further reductions in internal expenditures are now impossible without employee layoffs."

Subcommittee members repeatedly asked agency and institution heads whether they could draw down operating reserves to supplement their budgets. However, several reported they could not draw on reserves any more without imperiling their necessary safety cushion.

Another common theme was the need to walk through newly opened doors of opportunity at a time when the doors to additional financial resources appear to be slamming shut.

SBC agencies reaffirm home schooling, Christian schools

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention agencies affirmed Christian schools and home schooling and will develop materials and provide support for them, according to a plan adopted by the Inter-Agency Council Jan. 20 in Nashville.

All heads of the 20 SBC institutions, agencies, boards, and commissions — the IAC — approved the special report of the IAC's coordinating committee. The report listed three general principles of support and seven specific actions.

Both the chairman of the IAC, William O. Crews, president of Golden Gate, Mill Valley, Calif., and the chairman of the coordinating committee, Richard T. McCartney, executive vice president of the Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas, in statements to Baptist Press were quick to point out the action should not be interpreted as critical of public education.

Christian schools sponsored by Southern Baptist churches increased from 345 in 1976 to a reported 580 in 1986, although that

included more than 100 weekday early education programs (mothers-day-out, day care). Officials said the actual number of elementary and secondary Christian schools in 1992 was about 425 to 460, with an enrollment of about 105,000 students. The schools spent approximately \$7.5 million in 1991-92 for curriculum materials.

Emphasis to target Muslims

The Foreign Mission Board has issued a plea for Southern Baptists to join with other Great Commission Christian groups in a special prayer emphasis for Muslims around the world. Called "30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World," the emphasis is scheduled Feb. 20 through March 23.

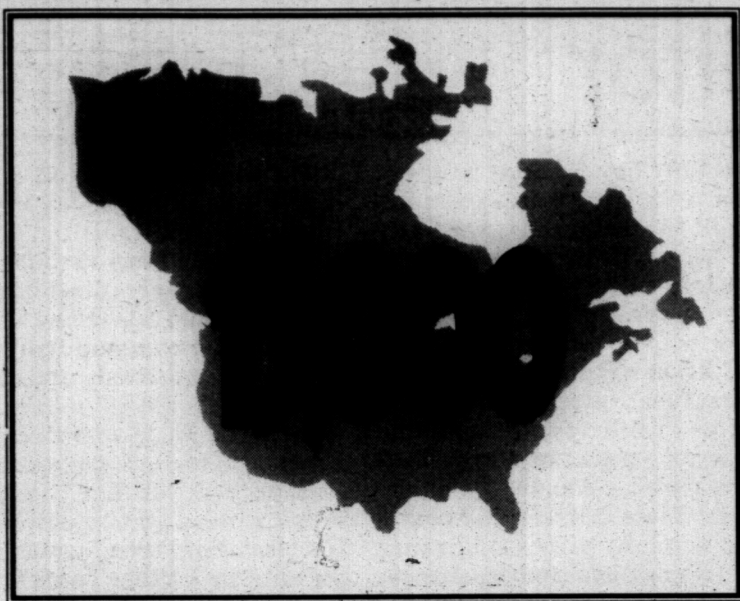
"We ask that (Southern Baptists) be a part of this emphasis personally and corporately," said Minette Drumwright, director of the FMB's International Prayer Strategy Office. "We pray that this will be a time of drawing close to the Father and to one another on behalf of a billion people lost and

Home schooling in America has grown from about 15,000 students in the 1970s to more than 260,000 in 1988. Release time Christian education is an arrangement in which local public school students, with their parents' consent, leave the school grounds to attend religious classes taught by teachers representing sponsoring churches.

hopeless without Christ."

The 1 billion adherents to the Muslim faith equals about one-fifth of the world's people, Drumwright noted. Along with exerting political control in many countries, Muslim influence is growing in areas traditionally considered Christian, such as the U.S. and Europe, she said.

Printed materials are available to churches and groups wanting to participate in the prayer emphasis. Interested churches or individuals can obtain them by contacting Charles and Indy Whitten at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (601) 968-3800.



The 15,000 Campaign

A plan to help make the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 50,000 congregations by A.D. 2000 a reality.

SBC agencies, institutions seek \$9.6 million increase

NASHVILLE (BP) — Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention's agencies, institutions, and commissions say they need at least \$9.6 million more than the Cooperative Program unified budget is likely to give them next year.

In presentations to the program and budget subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee Jan. 20-21, leaders of 18 SBC entities requested budget increases ranging from 1% to 57%. The increases are necessary to meet basic ministries and respond to new opportunities worldwide, they said.

Here's a sample of what the leaders said they want to accomplish but need additional gifts from Southern Baptists to do:

- A major initiative to share the gospel among the Islamic peoples of the world.

- Increased efforts to respond to ministry opportunities in the newly opened countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe through per-

sonnel, theological education, and communication.

- Development of a national strategy for reaching Muslims in the United States with the Christian gospel.

- More assistance for the 70% of SBC churches plateaued or declining in membership.

- Salary increases for personnel of some SBC agencies and institutions who have not received significant increases in three to six years.

- Maintenance of existing programs in various agencies and institutions where budgets have been stretched to the limit by continuing increases in medical insurance for employees.

- Development of new coeducational missions materials to meet changing needs of church programs for children and youth.

- Addition of a staff person to direct marriage and family initiatives through the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Youths recount violence at home

NASHVILLE (BP) — Violent behavior at home had been observed by approximately 22% of youth surveyed during 1992 Summer Youth Celebrations, the manager of the youth section in the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division told state convention leaders meeting in Nashville Dec. 6-9.

Teens who had observed violent behavior in their homes said it most often involved their fathers, with brothers rated a close second, Clyde Hall said. Youth respondents to the survey were attending celebrations at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference centers and several state convention conference centers.

In other results, 10% of teens indicated they had been physically attacked by a person in authority and approximately 30% said they

have carried weapons. Four percent said they had been raped.

By age 13, 59% said they had been offered and had experimented with alcohol; 27%, drugs; and 58%, cigarettes. One out of every five of the youth respondents indicated he or she already had engaged in sexual intercourse. Of that group, 41% said they currently were sexually active.

Nineteen percent said they personally had considered suicide while most reported knowing two to three persons who had thought about taking their own lives.

In the area of spiritual growth, 35% of youth surveyed said they needed to spend more time in prayer and quiet time with God. Thirty-three percent acknowledged the need to be more committed to the Lord and 25% said they needed to study the Bible more.

Thursday, January 28, 1993

Home missions personnel decreases slightly in 1992

ATLANTA (BP) — The number of Southern Baptist home missions personnel remains ahead of schedule for meeting the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 by the year 2000 despite a slight decrease in 1992.

Missions personnel numbered 4,868 by the end of 1992, down 1% compared to 4,922 at the end of 1991.

Bold Mission Thrust's goal called for 4,172 missions personnel by the end of 1992 in order to reach the goal of 5,000 by the year 2000.

The number of mission pastors decreased by 173, while the number of Mission Service Corps volunteers who serve more than two

years increased by 157. The number of missionary apprentices also dropped from 147 in 1991 to 117 in 1992.

The decrease in mission pastors resulted from the maturity of many mission churches, said David Bunch, assistant vice president for extension. As those mission churches mature, the board moves from directly funding mission pastors to assisting the churches to assume that responsibility, Bunch said.

The number of missionaries, missionary associates, US-2 volunteers, field personnel assistants, and state staff stayed relatively unchanged. Meanwhile, the number of Mission Service Corps vol-

unteers serving two years increased because of better recruiting and response to a call for missions volunteers, said Bob Mills, director of the Mission Service Corps program.

State convention volunteer consultants are "getting the message out that there are opportunities for folks to get involved and people are responding to that," Mills said.

Short and long-term volunteerism through the Home Mission Board increased during 1992 by slightly more than 3%, according to preliminary figures from the board's volunteer division.

In 1992, the total number of MSC volunteers increased by 183 from 1,428 in 1991 to 1,611.

Home missions personnel totals 1/19/92

	1991	1992	Change
Missionaries	862	852	-10
Missionary Associates	508	507	-1
Apprentices	147	117	-30
US-2s	67	76	+9
Mission Pastors	915	742	-173
Field Personnel Assistance	1,653	1,644	-9
State Staff	99	102	+3
Mission Service Corps	671	828	+157
Total	4,922	4,868	-54

— Source: Home Mission Board

Boomers returning to church, but not committed, study finds

By Mark Wingfield

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (ABP) — Baby boomers may be returning to church, but only a minority have become loyal, committed churchgoers, according to the author of a new study on baby boomers' spirituality.

Wade Clark Roof, professor of religion and society at the University of California at Santa Barbara, is author of a forthcoming book, *A Generation of Seekers: The Spiritual Journeys of the Baby Boom Generation*.

With a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Roof surveyed boomers in four states about their moral attitudes, family life, and religious and spiritual lives. He summarized his findings in the December 1992 issue of *American Demographics* magazine.

Despite public perceptions that boomers are returning to America's churches in record numbers, Roof's statistics paint a less flattering picture. He found that only one third of boomers who dropped out of church have returned to some kind of religious activities.

Conservative Protestant boomers were the least likely to drop out of church, however, and are the most likely to return if they did drop out, Roof noted.

For his report, Roof divides boomers — Americans born be-

tween 1946 and 1964 — into three religious subcultures: loyalists, returnees, and dropouts.

Loyalists were social conservatives in the 1960s, had better relations with their parents growing up, and never identified with the counterculture of the 1960s and '70s.

Returnees are middle-of-the-road types, Roof explained, who are "neither rigid traditionalists nor ranting radicals."

Dropouts were likely to have demonstrated, used drugs, joined the sexual revolution, and dodged the draft in the '60s and '70s. "Religious institutions, like other institutions, seemed to the dropout boomers to be out of touch with modern values and lifestyles," Roof said.

Boomers from these subcultures tend to relate to contemporary religion in different ways, he noted.

Loyalists still are more loyal to religious institutions. But returnees may return to church without being loyal.

"Only religious loyalists are likely to engage in traditional religious activities such as daily prayers, saying grace at meals or reading the Bible," Roof reported.

A majority of dropouts and returnees believe people should "explore many different religious traditions" rather than settle on just

one, he found.

"Returnees feel free to pick and choose from a variety of religious traditions," he wrote. "They often fashion a set of beliefs and practices that is meaningful to them but does not conform to any religious authority. And although few dropouts are atheists, they look even further afield than returnees for meaningful religious belief."

One thing that transcends the three groups of boomers is a disdain for the term "religious," Roof found. Instead, they want to be known as "spiritual."

Other findings Roof reported in the *American Demographics* article include:

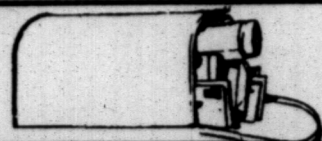
- 96% of boomers say they were raised in a religious tradition.

- 58% of boomers with religious backgrounds dropped out for at least two years during adolescence or young adulthood. The drop-out rate was highest among Jews (84%) and lowest among conservative Protestants (54%).

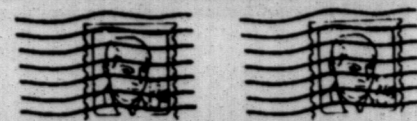
- Boomers who are returning to religion today are likely to be in their 40s and have school-age children.

- Childless, married boomers are the group least likely to attend church.

Wingfield is news director, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.



Letters to the editor



Prayer for Cuba

Editor:

It was a thrill to see news of Cuba on the front page of the *Record*. As a Southern Baptist pastor of more than 21 years, and now an evangelist to Central America and Cuba, I relate well to the printed story.

I have just returned from Cuba from two weeks of very fruitful work with pastors and leaders of the Western Baptist Convention (who are and have been associated with Southern Baptists for many years). The response to the gospel is just as the article stated.

A pastor in Havana and I are working together on a program we call "sister churches." We desire to pair the 115 churches of the Western Convention with Southern Baptist churches in the States.

We ask three things from churches here: Pray for your sister church on a regular basis; communicate with your sister church by mail, and when possible, send your pastor or a representative to visit the Cuban church; assist your sister church by sending needed supplies. At the present time you cannot send U.S. money, but it is possible to send literature and supplies.

God is at work in Cuba. I see the evidence. I pray that as Southern Baptists we can get in on what he is doing.

For more information, call or write:

Rod Smith
Hope Internat'l Ministries
P.O. Box 1055
Laurel, MS 39441
(601) 428-4215

Know little of SBC

Editor:

Reading Louie Odom's letter in the *Baptist Record* (Jan. 14), in answer to a guest opinion by Levon Moore (Dec. 31), illustrated once again how very little many Southern Baptists know about their alliance which is called the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is actually not a denomination, nor is it a convention. It is a loose affiliation of churches. All of the churches are independent of each other, of the associations with which they identify themselves, of their state conventions, and of the Southern Baptist Convention. Those conventions and associations, likewise, are independent of each other. There are no authoritative pronouncements by any one of those groups that have binding effect on any of the others.

What Odom calls the will of the majority are the decisions made by something more than 50% of those who have attended the several Southern Baptist conventions.

Each convention is different. By constitutional dictate, each lasts three days; and it's over.

Votes at the conventions for years following the 1979 "break-through" were cast at the rate of about 55% to 45%. The largest convention was the one in Dallas in 1985, when about 45,000 regis-

tered. They usually run about 25,000. At 25,000, a majority of 55% would be 13,750. That is a far cry from 55% of the 15 million Southern Baptists, which would be 8,250,000.

Odom's mention of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship brings to mind the fact that the churches of the Fellowship, in directing their money around the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, are doing the same thing that First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., has been doing for years. When the pastor of that church, Charles Stanley, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the church was giving less than 2% to Southern Baptist causes through the Executive Committee. Yet it had and still has many missions operations that it funds otherwise.

Don McGregor
Brandon

Regarding Utah pastor

Editor:

Sarah Zimmerman's article in the January 14 issue brought back many memories as it truly depicts the struggle that Southern Baptists encounter in evangelizing the Mormon stronghold of Utah. Few in the South are aware of what the Mormons really believe or of the challenges faced by those who minister in areas that they dominate. This article sheds some much needed light on the subject.

It was especially gratifying to see Lavid Robertson quoted extensively. If anyone knows about this struggle, he does. He was our pastor at First Southern Baptist of Clearfield, Utah in the early 1970s. We visited his church shortly after the Air Force transferred us to Hill Air Force Base. We were still living in a motel at the time. The next day he and his wife Geneva showed up at the motel to visit us. The next Sunday night we went to a fellowship attended by just about everybody in the church and immediately we knew that we had a church home and Christian friends.

Under Lavid Robertson's leadership, First, Clearfield was a small but very powerful church. He was the tower of strength and concern that the church needed. Sunday School attendance ranged from 90-120 and the membership reached out to the community and to the nearby Air Base. A large percentage of the membership had to be replaced annually, as the military transferred Baptists in and out.

Although nearly every family tithed, with the constant rotation of Air Force families the church sometimes had financial difficulties. Once when it was suggested that we balance the budget by cutting the contribution to the Cooperative Program, Lavid requested that his meager pay be cut instead.

Another thing that stood out about Lavid was his love for the Mormon people. We should be thankful that in Lavid Robertson the Lord has had a good and faith-

ful servant in the Mormon stronghold for many years, and that as Southern Baptists we have been a part of it.

Jim & Dorothy Crockett
Hattiesburg

BSU at Pearl River

Editor:

When we think of colleges in Mississippi, we often think of our senior colleges, but we in Mississippi are blessed to have an excellent community college system, providing accessible, affordable education for our citizens. In fact, 73% of all freshmen in state-supported Mississippi colleges are enrolled in community colleges and 53% of ALL Mississippi public college students are enrolled in community colleges.

These statistics point up how

Filipinos in Saudi Arabia deported, not decapitated

ISTANBUL, Turkey (EP) — Two Filipino Christians slated for execution on Christmas Day in Saudi Arabia over religious charges were instead deported back to Manila on Dec. 24 in the wake of international protests over the case, reports *News Network International*.

Relatives of Oswaldo Magdangal and Renato Posedio, both working in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, learned the week before Christmas that Saudi Arabia's religious police, called muttawa, allegedly planned to behead the two Christians on Christmas Day.

In response to urgent requests from Christian leaders in Manila, as well as Magdangal's mother and brother, Philippine President Fidel Ramos sent an official appeal Dec. 22 to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to spare the two men's lives.

In an official response on Dec. 24 from the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Saudi envoy to the United States, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan stated there had never been an intent to execute the two Christians. Sultan claimed the highly publicized case was a simple misunderstanding in which the word "deportation" had been misread as "decapitation."

The released prisoners arrived in Manila on Christmas morning. In an interview with *News Network International*, Magdangal reported that he had been severely tortured when first arrested last fall.

The two had been accused of "building a church" and meeting and praying with Christians. They were arrested Oct. 14.

"They broke the law from the beginning," said Magdangal. The muttawa forced their way into his home without a search warrant and made their arrest without civilian police present.

Magdangal said he admitted repeatedly throughout his impris-

important our Baptist Student Union work is on these community college campuses, especially since they can reach the majority of college students in that critical freshman year.

The Baptist Student Union at Pearl River Community College, Michael Ball director, is a fine example of BSU work. During the course of a semester, up to 200 students are involved in some way in Pearl River BSU ministries to a local housing project, nursing home, dorm Bible studies, mission trips, as well as many activities at the BSU center itself. Last year three Pearl River students went on summer missions.

Up until now the Pearl River BSU has been meeting in a 30' X 40' building which is the smallest BSU center in the state. That is

comment that he did worship privately in his home with his Christian friends. He also did not dispute the claim that he had a Bible in his possession, which he defended vigorously as his right.

"I told them, 'I am a Christian. When we were hired to work in your country, you knew that we were all Christians. This is a basic human right. I understand that it is against the law outside my home. But no one can prevent us from worshipping in our homes.'"

Magdangal stressed to his interrogators that he had asked some of his friends who were members of

about to change; a modern new building is now under construction. The new facility is three times larger than the old one, including a general meeting area which can hold 200 people.

Many churches and individuals are giving generously and sacrificially to this BSU work. As a member of the Pearl River BSU Advisory Council, I want to say, "Thank you." If you live in the Pearl River District of Forrest, Hancock, Jeff Davis, Lamar, Marion, or Pearl River counties, we invite you to come to Poplarville and see firsthand the new building and the excellent work of your Baptist Student Union.

Bob Rogers, pastor
First Church, Poplarville

the muttawa about this. They affirmed it was legal for non-Muslims to worship together privately, within the confines of their own homes.

"Being Christians, we value our faith. In the absence of regular church buildings, the next best thing is to share with each other in our homes, to pray together before meals and to share something from the Bible," he told the courts.

Amnesty International has reported the arrest of at least 316 Christians worshipers, including women and children, in Saudi Arabia during the past two years.

Baptists must cooperate in evangelism, says Bisagno

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Leaders at congregational, state, national, and global levels of Baptist life must discover new ways to cross political-theological barriers to cooperate in missions and evangelism, according to John Bisagno, pastor of First Church in Houston.

Bisagno used the platform of the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference in Fort Worth, to call on the presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas to explore avenues of missions cooperation.

"If we cannot agree to work together in theological education, we must find ways to link arms and work together in missions and evangelism to win the world to Christ," Bisagno said. "The need is too big. There are too few of us."

Bisagno urged the interim president of the Foreign Mission Board to meet with other evangelical denominations and para-church organizations to find ways to work together in missions.

He also publicly invited two "moderate" Southern Baptist pas-

tors in Houston to join him in personal evangelism in their city.

Bisagno said he wholeheartedly supports the "perpetuating of innerrancy within our educational system at every level of our life" as Southern Baptists, a rallying cry of SBC leaders since 1979.

But if all Southern Baptists cannot agree to cooperate in theological education, they should at least find ways to cooperate in spreading the gospel message, he maintained.

"Division among us is hurting our witness to the world. We have got to find ways to cooperate in winning people to Jesus Christ," he said.

Finally, on a personal level, Bisagno publicly asked his "moderate friends" in Houston — Bill Turner, pastor of South Main Church, and Dan Vestal, pastor of Tallowood Church — to come to First Church and "go out with this fundamentalist pastor" in personal witnessing. Attempts to reach Turner and Vestal for a response were not successful.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 28, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

PRAYERGRAM

Jan. 28-Feb. 11, 1993

PRAY for the Baptist churches and leaders in Cuba. The economic situation grows worse but there is a tremendous response to the gospel. Pray that Cuba may experience the changes so much needed in 1993.

PRAY for the Baptist work in Liberia and for the missionaries there. Two more couples expect to arrive in Monrovia in Jan. 1993. Pray for the problem of ministry to the refugees that have more than doubled the population of Monrovia and are being housed and fed in the Baptist churches of the city.

PRAY for missionaries and nationals as they make plans for the 1993 bicentennial celebration of William Carey's arrival in India. Plans are being made for large numbers of volunteer groups to go to India from the United States.

PRAY for Yun Yong, director of Ministry to International Seafarers, a ministry of South Jersey Baptist Association. He asks for prayer for Ministry over Radio at Sea, which is a ministry of Christian radio officers aboard ships.

PRAY for Joe Baker of Dayton, Ohio. Joe is director of missions for the Greater Dayton Baptist Association. In the past two years, 17 works have been started—sixteen have pastors and one has an interim. 60 % of the population of Dayton is unchurched.

PRAY for Henry Blackaby and Ron Owens, directors of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening in the United States. Pray that they will "have continuing sensitivity to the activity of God, as well as the anointing of the Holy Spirit and physical strength as they respond to the demanding ministry schedule that lies ahead."

PRAY for Roy Isbell of Christmas, Fl. He is a Mission Service Corps volunteer who works with the Florida Baptist Convention as director of International Students. A new Baptist Student Union council was recently elected. Pray for their training and for them to be very evangelistic. Pray for plans that are being made for a state international student conference, March 19-21, at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly.

Pray for Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, Prayer Coordinator of Area IV, and former missionary to Africa. She is to be back in Nigeria for a month. She asks for prayer for good health, safety in travel and the opportunity to witness while there.

PRAY for the Mississippi Baptist Convention and its leadership; for pastors and church leaders that in 1993 a spirit of unity and love may prevail and that we will not lose sight of our priorities—evangelism, missions and ministry.

PRAY for military personnel and the families of those in Somalia, that the mission that took the Americans to Somalia will soon be completed and they can return home. Pray for the people of Somalia and the UN forces. HT

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department

STATE GROWTH SPIRAL CONFERENCE

Featuring
Base Conference and Advanced Conference

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1993

Morrison Heights Baptist Church - 201 Morrison Drive, Clinton, MS



With
Jerry L. Harris
and
Jim Fitch



JERRY HARRIS is Vice President of California Baptist Foundation and Director of California Plan of Church Finance.

JIM FITCH is retired Supervisor of the Sunday School Growth Section, BSSB.

Learn what growing churches in Mississippi are doing to reach people and what Mississippi churches that have plateaued or are declining are not doing to reach people.

AT LEAST SIX MISSISSIPPI CHURCHES WILL RECEIVE EAGLE AWARDS

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:30	General Session
9:30-12:00	Base Conference and Advanced Conference
12:15-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:15	General Session - Eagle Presentations
1:30-3:30	Base Conference and Advanced Conference
3:30	Dismiss

\$5 PER PERSON CHARGE FOR LUNCH

THE GROWTH SPIRAL is a Simple Tool for Church Growth

BAPTIST WOMEN/BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN RETREAT

LEAD ON....WOMEN WITH SERVANT HEARTS!

February 26-27, 1993

Camp Garaywa

Friday, January 26

4:00 - 6:00 Check In
Book Store
6:00 Supper
7:30 Worship Together
8:30 MissionStroll
Mississippi Partners
Our Missionaries
Volunteers on Mission
9:30 Limber Up Aerobics!

Saturday, January 27

7:00 Aerobics for Early Birds
7:30 Breakfast
8:30 - 10:55 Special Interest Conferences
1 - Doing Missions Where You Are!
2 - Bloom in Your Leadership Self Image
3 - On the Field with Gwen (Peru) and Peggy (New Orleans)
4 - Things Fall, People Fall
11:05 Together Time
12:30 Lunch
Good-Bye!!!



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 23, 1993

For registration information contact the Woman's Missionary Union, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530; or call (601) 968-3800.

Attention Discipleship Training Directors

Watch your mails for the 1993 gold Discipleship Training Award folder explaining the requirements for achieving this award for the current year. Use it as a goal setting instrument for your church. Check each item. See how your church measures up presently. The decide which items you will use a goals for the next nine months. A total of 12 items must be checked by Sept. 30.

Last year more than 40 churches achieved excellence by earning this award. Why don't you join that group next year? It's not too late to get started. Work at it to have it accomplished by the end of September 1993. Then mail the application to the Discipleship Training Department in Jackson. Awards are presented at "M" Night in your association. **HT**

HELP WANTED!

ALASKA

Southeast Island Ministries needs 6-10 people for three weeks to do Mission VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, and New Work Canvassing. Communities are logging camps or fishing villages; people are responsive, food and housing will be provided. Suggested dates: July 12 - 30, 1993.

Contact Mississippi Partnership Missions Office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 for more information. **HT**

THE CURTAIN'S GOING UP...

On a Great Opportunity for Single Adults! Widowed, Divorced, Never-Yet-Married

Two special events in one weekend are planned for February 5 and 6, 1993. Pastors, Church Leaders, Inform Your Single Adults! They'll Thank You Later. Single Adults, Don't Miss These Specials! Get Up a Group or come Alone.

1 SINGLE ADULT RALLY

8:00 P.M.
First Baptist Church Sanctuary
430 North President Street
(Across from the State Capitol)
Jackson, Mississippi

Hear Wanda Geddie in Musical Concert. New York Fashion Model, Music Theater Performer, Television Spokesmodel, Concert Soloist, 1984 Miss Mississippi, William Carey Graduate, Single. Thrill from presentations by Harold Ivan Smith Nationally Known Popular Speaker, Author, Lecturer, conference Leader on Subjects of Special Interest to Single Adults. Single Himself.

Need hotel rooms? Try these at special rates:

Holiday Inn Downtown, 200 East Amite Street, 969-5100, \$48 double. Admiral Benbow, 905 North State Street, 948-4161, \$40 2 Double Beds. Days Inn North, 616 Briarwood Drive, 957-1741, \$34 1-4 persons. Howard Johnson Lodge, 5925 I-55 North, 1-800-262-0889 (956-8000) \$35.

Brought to You By The Family Ministry Section, Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For additional information call 601 968-3800 Extension 3973.

2 SINGLE ADULT SEMINAR

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall West
100 Block Mississippi Street
Between North State Street and North President Street

Two Sessions with Harold Ivan Smith

"Marching off the Map"

SEMINAR FEE \$5.00. Tickets available from Family Ministry, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, Ms 39205. Also at the Rally.

Youth Ministry National

Conference 4

April 19-23, 1993
Nashville, Tennessee

**YOUTH
MINISTRY**

NOW!

- The only Southern Baptist National Conference until 1997.
- Choose from over 100 conference topics.
- See teenagers and their leaders in live demonstrations.
- Find renewal through Bible study each morning and worship each evening.
- Talk with every national leader in Southern Baptist youth ministry.
- Meet and hear the members of Petra, D.C. Talk and others.
- Enjoy instant fellowship with over 1,200 Southern Baptist youth ministers, youth pastors, and volunteer coordinators.

For a full brochure, call (615) 251-2052. **HT**

HOUSE OF



Small Church Leadership Conference

February 20, 1993

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

North Greenwood Baptist Church Greenwood, Miss.

Conferences designed specifically for Small Membership Church Leaders. What is a small membership church? One that has less than 150 enrolled in Sunday School.

Your conference will train you for your special situation. Leaders will listen to your questions and help

you with your problems. The conferences and books to be studied are:

PASTORS: *Pastoral Leadership Skills for Growing Churches*

What is pastoral leadership; what skills do I need? The church alive and growing - Motivating, Teambuilding, Negotiating, Managing Change are just some of the skills we will study.

BROTHERHOOD: *Leading Baptist Men*

The men of God living His Love - How to begin, lead, understand, and work with Baptist Men and their call to missions.

Leading Royal Ambassadors

Brotherhood has the responsibility for missions education and involvement of men and boys. Learn how to begin Royal Ambassadors, leadership fundamentals, understanding, working with, and doing missions with Royal Ambassadors.

CHURCH MUSIC:

BI-VOCATIONAL/VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTORS: *Song Leading Made Easy*. This study is practical, exciting, and usable - even at church next Sunday!

CHURCH PIANISTS: *Five Practical Lessons for Church Pianists*. Accompanying congregational singing is the most important, exciting, and challenging use of the piano in church. Learn to expand your "musicianship."

CHURCH ORGANISTS: *Five Practical Lessons for Church Organists*. Are you the "unsung hero" in your church? Learn the fundamentals, manual techniques for hymn

playing, pedal technique, major and minor keys, and cadence. The organist is strategic to the worship service. **PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S CHOIR WORKERS:** *Effective Music Activity Teaching in Preschool/Children's Choirs*. Bringing children and music together - Learn how to understand preschoolers and school-age children; fun activities for small and large group; how to plan the environment. Music is praise. Music is thankfulness. Music is fun!

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING: *DiscipleAll: A Discipleship Training Manual*

Discipleship Training is a Christ-like action more than it is an organization or a program. Learn to plan and lead your people in discipleship and personal ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: *Teaching...The Bible*. (Age groups)

You have been called to teach God's Word. Let God use you to change lives with teaching that is Bible based and evangelistic. Study and learn to apply principles that can enable your church to improve the quality of Bible teaching.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION: *Share the Vision: Ideas for Missions Involvement*.

"As the Father sent me, so I send you." John 20:21 (TEV). Christ has given the church the responsibility of proclaiming the message and sending out messengers. Learn to identify, relate to, and reach prospects - discover and adapt plans that will work for your situation and follow through! **HT**

Mississippi Baptist Student Union Retreat

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union Retreat takes place Feb. 5-6 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

Speakers include Bill Perkins, associate director of church extension for the Home Mission Board; and Sheldon Gooch, Mississippi area representative for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

A series of seminars will include topics such as Avoiding Peer Pressure and Being Bold for God, The Holy Spirit and Emotionalism, Maintaining Strong Christian Growth in Your Life, How to Minister Through Music, How to Study the Bible and Let It Feed Your Spiritual Growth, On a Mission for God--Finding Ways to Give Special Service, Helping People Who are Hurting, and The Black Male--Ways to Enhance Life.

Special music will come from Mrs. Edna Clark, state musician from Utica; and from BSU groups from Rust, East Central, Northeast, Jackson State, Itawamba and Hinds-Utica.

The retreat is sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Student Work. **HT**

1993 Young Musicians' Camp GULFSHORE

July 9-13

CLINICIAN:

Susan Messer, Music Faculty
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Send Registration Gulfshore, March 1



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Return this form to Frank Simmons, Manager; Gulfshore Baptist Assembly; 100 First Street; Pass Christian, MS 39571.



**Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering**

National Goal: \$38 million

Week of Prayer for Home Missions
March 7-14, 1993

Book Link

Anyone wishing to donate books for the international ministry known as Book Link have two places to ship or drop of their donations, according to Hal Buchanan of Tupelo, who directs the operation for the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators.

Books may be sent by parcel post, 4th class book rate to Dr. C.E. Holladay, Director of Shipping, Mississippi College Library, Monroe at Old Highway 80, Clinton, MS 39056. Or one may drop off books at the MC library or at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board offices at 515 Mississippi St., in Jackson.

These books go primarily to overseas missionaries and national pastors. Particularly needed are reference works such as commentaries or Bible Book commentaries, sermons and sermon and doctrinal helps, discipleship materials, Bible dictionaries and atlases.

As noted in last week's Baptist Record, since the first shipment in June of 1988, more than 64,000 books have been shipped since to 56 countries and five states. Postage costs have been \$17,774.52.

For details on selecting books and how to box them, call or write Buchanan at 2121 Briar Ridge Road, Tupelo, MS 38801, or phone toll free 1-800-645-4391. **HT**

Preschool/Children's Choirs in the 90's

The Church Music Ministries Department of the Sunday School Board is sponsoring a seminar on Teaching and Administering Preschool/Children's Choirs in the 90s. It will take place Feb. 18-20 at the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Clinician will be Libby Carton, director-teacher of Community Music School and assistant professor at Catawba College in Salisbury.

Leadership training will be in moving to music and how that relates to all musical learning. This is a "hands on" experience. Program materials note that "The agenda will include areas of administration skills, projected trends for the nineties, communication and ministry to families, hymnology for children, and other selected topics."

A fee of \$75 per person includes a notebook and a meal.

Sarah Talley of the Mississippi Church Music Department encourages attendance by all leaders in the preschool and children's choir areas. **HT**



Faces & Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams



The Berber woman of Morocco

An Arabic Bible under my arm, I sat down in a sea of bright colors; rugsellers kept spreading their wares around me. A boy entered the shop, balancing a tray, and I accepted a glass of hot mint tea. From a Casbah doorway I could see the Atlantic. Though Tangier, Morocco, was only a two-hour ferry ride from Gibraltar, I felt I'd landed on another planet.

Minutes later, I arrived at the Berber Market, the Bible still under my arm. I had not brought a Berber language Bible, for so far there is no such thing. In a nation 99.5% Muslim, Bibles are scarce, so I felt this one would prove valuable to someone.

In the market, some stallkeepers wore scarlet dresses and wide straw hats. Like most Berber women, they had discarded their veils. One vendor displayed eggs; another was selling pickled lemons, olives, radishes, eggplants, and potatoes.

How far away did these Berbers live? At the edge of the city or far up in the foothills? Perhaps they had traveled all night with their goods. Thirty tribes, I knew, one and a half million Berbers, live in north Morocco's Rif Mountains.

I smelled spices and turned to find them spread out in bowls. Nearby I saw what appeared to be sponges covered with crochet. A woman in a black djellabah walked up and showed me that the sponge was for scrubbing the skin. Though not trying to sell it to me, she lingered, smiling. I noticed a tattoo on her chin, a "beauty mark" of many Berber women.

"Of course," I thought, "I must

offer her the Bible." Forgetting she might not speak English, I asked, "May I give this to you?" She nodded eagerly, her face alight, and reached for the Book. "Berber!" she said, pointing to herself. Then she clasped the Bible to her breast, and left quickly.

Ever since, I have wondered about her. Is she a Christian? If so, she is among the very few — only 15 baptized believers in the Rif, some say. In one city of 100,000, there are only two known Christians. If she is a Christian, has life become more difficult for her on account of that? Has she experienced persecution from family or community?

Can this woman speak Arabic? Can she read? If so, she's one of the one percent of Riffi women who can do either. Many of the 30 tribes speak different Berber dialects; about half the men can speak Arabic, and a little French or Spanish. Only 10-15% of Riffian men can read. Just the Koranic school is available to most of them.

Is the woman's house a mud one with gunslits and a prickly cactus fence, hand-me-downs from the days of bloody feuds? Her people are known the world over as super horsemen and fierce fighters.

Is she married? Is her husband a farmer? Does he own cattle, sheep, donkeys, or goats? Or is he one of the thousands of Berber men who migrate to Europe to find jobs? If she is a Christian, did her husband hear of Christ while working in Europe and return to tell her?

Where did she meet her husband? Was it at the Brides' Fair where Middle Atlas tribesmen go

to find mates? If he came looking for a bride, he wore a white turban and found her wearing all her silver and amber jewelry. Choosing her, he took her hand. To show acceptance, she walked around the marketplace with him.

If her husband is a Muslim, does he have other wives? He is permitted four, but she can have only one husband. In her world, the woman is a bit second-rate. The son inherits twice as much as the daughter.

Has she ever been divorced? Many there have as many as eight spouses in a lifetime, as a husband can get a divorce by saying in front of witnesses: "I divorce you. I divorce you. I divorce you." If she ever got that kind of treatment, I hope she did like one woman I heard about and said, "I accept. I accept. I accept."

Is she, like many Riffis, Muslim but not orthodox? Does she worship saints? Does she revere "holy men" and think they have special privileges with Allah?

There are no organized Christian churches in the Rif. If a Christian, would she be willing to face danger to have one in her house? I think she has courage.

Today I am praying for the evangelization of North Africa, and especially for that of the Riffian Berbers. I pray that those translating the Bible into Berber may swiftly finish their task, and that more than one church can soon be organized in the Rif.

Thursday, January 28, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Personal account...

Missionaries able to minister in quake's aftermath, Kupang

By Tom Barron

On Dec. 12, an earthquake occurred in the sea some 20 miles north of Flores, an island in our Indonesian province just north of Timor. The shock was barely felt here in Kupang, but it was devastating to Flores.

Almost whole towns were destroyed, dead bodies of people and animals were everywhere, and the living were in such shock they couldn't do anything for hours, even days, afterward. Roads between towns were broken up, bridges were out, 80% of schools, churches, homes, office buildings, and stores in some areas are either rubble or unsafe; and communication is very limited. Damage is estimated at \$100 million U.S.

Other reports said one small island off Flores was divided in half, another sank out of sight, and one was swept clean. Its inhabitants disappeared into the ocean.

Heart rending stories keep coming from Flores. The earth opened, a school teacher's wife and children fell into the abyss and then it closed again. A man on a motorbike fell into an opening which closed up, catching the bike and the man's leg. It opened again, the man scrambled free, and it closed again swallowing the motorbike.

It has been three weeks now,

and people on other islands are still awaiting the first news from relatives on Flores. The last death count we saw was 2,670, with people still unaccounted for. Now it is reported there are 1,000 cases of cholera caused by impure drinking water.

The Indonesian government quickly began to respond with aid such as tents, food, and drinking water, and sent in troops to organize and assist in burying the dead and helping survivors.

Medical teams were held back until somewhat later because it was felt they could not work effectively as long as aftershocks continued. Other countries have sent aid also. There are problems getting supplies delivered expeditiously. Harbors were destroyed by the earthquake and the airports are small and runways inadequate for large planes.

I immediately called our mission administrator in Jakarta to use some Baptist relief money; however, travel to Flores was restricted by the government.

Because we couldn't be directly involved, Yos Balukh, a leader in our church who works closely with Governor Fernandes, advised me to wait until we could see him personally. The opportunity came on Monday, Dec. 28. The governor, originally from Flores, is Catholic, as are most of the residents of Flores. Escorted by Balukh, I took a Christmas gift of two small Christian books for the governor himself, and two million rupiah (\$1,000) in cash for disaster relief.

The governor shared some problems he was facing as head of the state government. In response I promised to pray for him; he quickly asked me to also pray for rain. He said, "The people on Flores are in tents, but Timor needs rain. The corn crop is drying up. We must have rain soon."

I assured him we would. He thanked us and as we arose he asked me to pray then and there. Standing around his desk, the three of us bowed heads and I led in prayer concerning the things we had discussed. We shook hands and departed.

Back home, Hazel was washing. When I told her my story, (because we use solar drying) she exclaimed, "Rain! On my wash?"

For many people here, Christmas and New Year celebrations have been simplified because of concern for earthquake victims. On a wall at the governor's office were displayed names of organizations that had canceled their parties and donated the money for relief.

Barron and his wife Hazel are missionaries in Indonesia.

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East German exchange student learns about America and the Lord

AVON PARK, Fla. (BP) — Unaware his trip to the United States would result in "the most important decision of (his) life," an East German exchange student left his fatherland and met his Father.

Ruediger Horst, 17, came to the U.S. in the autumn of 1992 to attend high school for one year and learn about American culture.

Living with Bill and Brenda Anderson and their two sons was part of the bargain. Falling in with a group of young people involved at First Church, Avon Park, Fla., taking a youth trip to Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center and giving his life to Jesus was not.

But, Mona and Randy Severn, volunteer youth leaders at the church, see the decision Horst made at December's Winter Youth Celebration at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center as more than just chance.

"My husband and I had really been praying a lot that he would accept Christ," Mona Severn said.

Horst indicated he had been christened as a baby but had never

understood what it meant to make a profession of faith, Severn said.

After the worship service that evening, Horst made a decision to accept Christ as his Savior, Severn said. Nine from Severn's group made decisions for the Lord that week. Three, including Horst's, were professions of faith, she said.

"My husband was Rudy's counselor that night during the invitation and he asked him if he knew what decision he wanted to make. Rudy said, 'Yes the most important one in my life.'"

Since, Horst said he has been reading the Bible almost constantly. Because he was brought up in a society where religion was frowned upon, his knowledge of biblical teachings is minimal, he said.

His mother sent him a German Bible and he has been reading from an English student Bible, comparing the verses and content for better understanding.

Horst said he hopes to take what he learns back to his friends in Leipzig, East Germany.

Names in the News



Members of New Hope Church, Foxworth, who have perfect attendance in Sunday School are pictured, left to right: first row, Kristen White, 6 years; Mitchell Ratliff, 2 years; Cade Campbell, 1 year; and Peggy Stringer, 5 years; second row, Tiffany Kroner, 4 years; Dustin Stringer, 10 years; B.B. Stringer, 37 years; Bradley White, 4 years; and third row, Mark Kroner, 5 years; Brandie Magee, 12 years; Jimmy Thomas, 23 years; and Sherrell Magee, 11 years.

New Hope Church exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal in December. Kent Campbell is pastor.

James Richard Joiner, baritone, and Patricia Walston, pianist, will present a lecture recital on the song cycle, "Die Schone Magelone," by Johannes Brahms, on Feb. 2, at 8:15 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus. Joiner is professor and head of the Department of Music at Mississippi College. Walston is assistant professor of piano at the college.

Sybil Stewart resigned in 1992 as pianist of First Church, Okolona, after serving the church 44 years. Stewart, 85, was recently the subject of a feature article in the Daily Journal newspaper.

C.C. Burns, music evangelist and producer of three gospel tapes, will preach and sing at Shady Grove Church, Heidelberg, Jan. 31-Feb. 3. The Sunday service will begin at 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds. Monday through Wednesday services will be at 7 p.m. Sharber Smith is pastor.



Mrs. Vera Chapman was honored on Dec. 13 for 36 years as church clerk at Pine Grove Church, Benton-Tippah Association. She was presented with a plaque, gifts, and a money tree during the morning worship service. Mrs. Chapman recently retired her position due to her husband's health. Philip D. Cooper is pastor.



Trinity Church, Pearl, licensed three men to the gospel ministry this past year. Pictured, left to right, are Kenny Goff, pastor; Larry Pate; Mike McDonald; and Larry Russell.

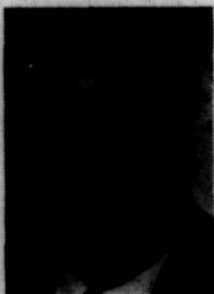
Staff Changes

John H. Pace Jr. has accepted the call of Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, to be its pastor. Pace received a master of divinity degree at New Orleans Seminary in December. He and his family moved to the church field on Jan. 1.



Pace

Michael O. Duff of Columbus has accepted the pastorate at North Springfield Church, North Springfield, Tenn. His address is 307 S. Pawnee Dr., Springfield, TN 37172.



Duff

"Because Jesus was fit..." Fitness vital to faith, nutrition expert says

NASHVILLE (BP) — Christians who take seriously the creed of striving to be more like Jesus should hit the streets in their walking shoes and tone up their bodies, a Southern Baptist nutritionist said.

"Why should Christians become fit physically?" Dick Couey asked a group of about 150 in Nashville attending the national launch of a Christian health care program.

"Because Jesus was fit," said Couey, nutrition expert, author, and professor of health and physical education and recreation at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Jesus didn't hop in his car and drive to the nearest temple to spread the word, Couey said.

"He walked. The Bible describes how he walked over 50 miles once from sunup to sundown. Another time he walked 120 miles in three days. Guys, he was walking about a 14-minute mile. I want you to get out there tomorrow and try a few of those."

Couey was guest speaker at the Jan. 15-16 national launch of "First Place: A Christ Centered Health Program." Billed as a spiritually based education program to teach participants to eat right, exercise, and get enough rest, First Place is a joint venture between the Baptist Sunday School Board and First Church, Houston.

The 13-week fitness course includes Bible study, Scripture memorization, prayer sessions, exercise guidelines, and a sensible eating plan allowing participants to successfully lose up to two pounds a week.

"Jesus was not only physical-

ly fit, he was mentally fit," Couey said. "At age 12, he amazed a priest with his knowledge. We must learn to develop mentally, too."

"If you don't go home and read, study, and learn, you're not going to be like Jesus," Couey added.

Americans, Christians especially, are in a physical slump, Couey indicated.

"Nearly 40% of all Americans are overweight," he said, adding 62% of ministers who died last year died as a result of heart attacks.

Other facts Couey cited about the health of Americans included:

— The U.S. leads the world in the number of cases of hypertension, cancer, and heart attacks.

— 60% of all cancer is caused because of improper nutrition.

— 80% of Americans suffer from lower back pain, which is a result of inadequate exercise.

Couey advised the First Place participants to "stay in shape. Develop your cardiovascular fitness, develop flexibility, keep your body fat down, and develop good body composition."

Couey said one is never too young or too old to exercise.

"The only reason you don't eat right or exercise is because you're lazy," he said.

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Devotional

Knowing God's will

By J.C. Hall

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

One morning as I was reading these verses, the Holy Spirit began to help me see something I had overlooked before — His will. *Our Father which art in heaven* — God wants to be PERSONAL. *Hallowed be thy name* — God wants to PURIFY. *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven* — God wants to PERFORM.

Give us this day our daily bread — God wants to PROVIDE. *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors* — God wants to PARDON.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: — God wants to PROTECT.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. — God wants to be PRAISED.

Jesus wanted us to understand these words, phrases, and sentences. Pray them, for they are the functions which God wants to do (His will).

Please allow God the Father to do what he wants to do.
Hall is pastor, Providence Church, Grenada.



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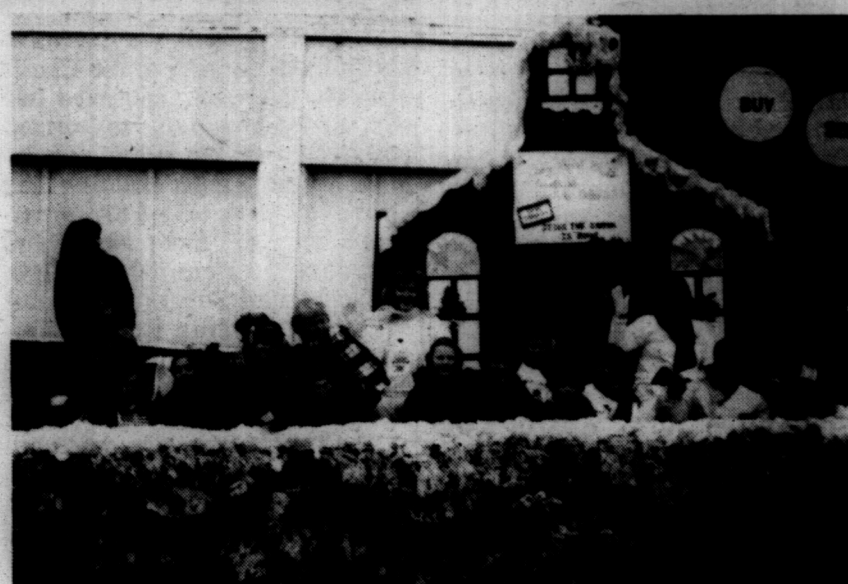


First Church, West Point, observed dedication day recently to celebrate the completion of a \$330,000 renovation to the sanctuary and educational space. Also celebrated was the retirement of the \$500,000 debt on its educational building.

Warren County Association will sponsor a World Missions Conference Feb. 14-17. Participating churches include Bowmar Avenue, First, Grace, Goodrum, Highland, Immanuel, Trinity, Wayside, and Woodlawn. Foreign and home missionaries will speak at local churches about their experiences on the mission field.

The Tri-County Association is sponsoring a Hearts and Homes Conference for ladies at First Church, Columbia, Feb. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Janet Paschal, concert artist from Nashville, and Majorie Kelly, former missionary to Israel and staff member at Carey College, will be the leaders. There is a \$15 fee. Call 736-2254 for more information.

Legend will be in concert at the Kosciuszko Coliseum Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call John Staszefski at 547-6516.



GAs of Calvary Church, Greenville, entered a float in that city's Christmas parade. The theme of the parade was "Our Heritage," and the float boasted a banner saying, "American Heritage, Mississippi Heritage, and Our Christian Heritage." The Calvary GA group's enrollment has grown from 12 to 45 since July. Brenda Long is GA director; Carolyn Gilder, WMU director; and J.D. Lundy, interim pastor.



Oakland Church, Walnut, recently held an Acteen and GA recognition service under the theme, "People Need the Lord." Acteens who received crowns are, left to right, front row: Jean Wyse, leader; Brigitte Rankin; Holly Weatherly; April Scott; Robin Ridge; Elizabeth Reed, leader; back row, Sarah Scott; Darla Martindale; Jessi Wall; Allison Weatherly; Angel Perkins; and Alice Scott, leader.



GAs honored with badges at Oakland Church, Walnut, are, left to right, front row: Kacy Weatherly, Candice Melton; back row, Amanda Wall, Melinda Bates, and Belinda Bates. Not pictured is Crystal Devore. GA leaders are Valeria Weatherly and Diane Weatherly, 1-3 grade; Töllie Scott, Pansy Jinks, and Carolyn Street, 4-6 grade. Kay Winter is WMU director; James Melton is pastor.

Greater Gulf Coast Bible Conference

Pass Road Baptist Church, Gulfport
March 7-11, 1993

5 services daily

9 a.m.

10 a.m. 6 p.m.

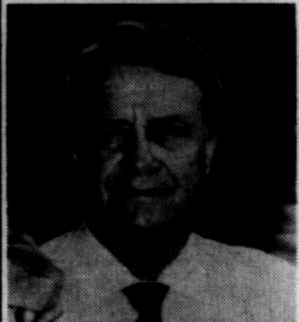
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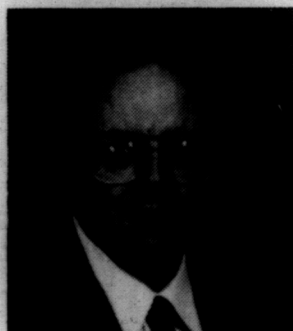
Jack Taylor



Herb Hodges



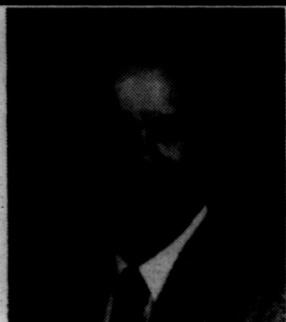
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Missionary News

Jeffery and Nell Ginn, missionaries to Colombia, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Apartado Aereo 55526, Medellin, Colombia). The former, Nell Nichols, she was born in Memphis and considers Byhalia her hometown.

Lee and Phyllis Walker, missionaries to Chile, are in the States (address: 107 Frederick St., Brandon, MS 39042).

Revival Dates

Utica (Hinds-Madison): Feb. 12-14; services, 7 p.m. and regular times on Sunday; Mike Gilchrist, Shreveport, La., evangelist; John Ed Snell, pastor.

Oakvale (Lawrence): Feb. 21-24; services begin Sunday morning; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; John Yates of Jackson will give a concert Sunday at 4 p.m.; Willie Wright, pastor; Chris Turnage, music.

CLARKE

From page 3

Otis, Tupelo, chairman; R.J. Reynolds, Newton; Mrs. Bobby Foster, Prentiss; Mrs. Jerry Kemp, Columbia; Earnest Sadler, Pascagoula; Glenn Shows, Greenwood; Lamar McDonald, Meridian; Levon Moore, Kosciusko, vice-chairman; Bill May, Newton; Joe Jack Hurst, Jackson; George Taylor Jr., Forest; and James Richardson, Madison.

Ex officio members will be John Brock, vice chairman of the Executive Committee, MBCB; P.J. Scott, president of the convention board and pastor of First Church, Olive Branch; Frank Harmon, pastor of First Church, Newton, and chairman of the Education Commission; Bill Causey; and Jim Futral. Futral said he interprets Robert's Rules of Order to say that ex officio members of com-

mittees are allowed to vote.

Meeting times for the new committee will be determined by members.

In other business, the Executive Committee, meeting at the Clarke property last week, approved two new board members, authorized purchase of new mail room equipment for the Baptist Building, and approved re-roofing the president's home at Clarke. New board members are Kermit McGregor, replacing Earl Suber, and Dennis McKay, replacing Doyle Cummings. Both resigning members moved to other counties, making them ineligible.

The mail room equipment consists of a Friden 3C Mailing Machine and a UPS Manifest with postal accounting, for a cost of \$17,425, including tax. A new roof for the president's home at Clarke will cost up to \$3,060.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.

LAND

From page 3

regulations is not only a odious assault on the unborn but on women as well. The right of informed consent has long been enshrined as a critical value in medicine and society. Now, women will be counseled to abort their babies without the benefit of knowing the facts about prenatal development and the risk of abortion. It is hypocritical for an administration that pays such lip service to women's rights to violate those rights by legislating a plan of conscious and deliberate misinformation at taxpayers' expense. Such coercion is the worst form of deceit.

Fetal tissue research

"History will look back on Jan. 22, 1993, as the day on which the American government began its descent into a grotesque and obscene exploitation of human life in the name of 'medical progress' unlike the world has known since the barbarism of Hitler's Germany. It will now be permissible to snuff out one life in order to save another.

"With federally funded fetal tissue transplantation using unborn children from induced abortions, women will be exploited to procure this sacred human resource for experimentation.

"President Clinton has bought the lie of the pro-abortion movement that unborn children are not human beings and thus can be experimented with and that without this tissue medical progress will be stymied. Only God knows the number of unborn children who will never enjoy their right to life because of this cruel hoax. This terrible policy ignores the fact that there is enough tissue available from ethically permissible sources in order to pursue medical experiments."

RU 486

"Lifting the ban on RU 486, the French 'kill pill,' will give pharmacological abortion a glamour which is totally unwarranted. Murder, no matter how silent and efficient, is still murder. In fact, the

stealth of RU 486 makes it more pernicious and the evil it brings more heinous. If the ban is lifted, the president of the world's greatest nation will be an accomplice in the death of millions of unborn babies.

"RU 486 and the necessary prostaglandin therapy is not as safe and painless as we have been led to believe. The purveyors of this 'human pesticide' are, through their own economic self-interest, manipulating the American public. As the public policy and ethics agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Christian Life Commission will vigorously oppose the introduction of this 'death by prescription' into our country with all the means at our disposal."

Land is executive director of the Christian Life Commission, SBC.

CLINTON

From page 2

14-minute address before about 250,000 persons on the west side of the U.S. Capitol called on Americans to change the country and to serve others. On a winter day, he said, they can "force the spring."

"Thomas Jefferson believed that to preserve the very foundations of our nation, we would need dramatic change from time to time," Clinton said. "Well, my fellow Americans, this is our time. Let us embrace it."

"In serving we recognize a simple but powerful truth: We need each other, and we must care for one another," Clinton said.

As America stands on the verge of the 21st century, he said, "let us begin anew with energy and hope, with faith and discipline, and let us work until our work is done."

"The Scripture says, 'And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not,'" Clinton said, quoting Galatians 6:9.

"From this joyful mountaintop of celebration, we hear a call to

Convention of New England names Lyle

NORTHBOROUGH, Mass. (BP) — The Baptist Convention of New England's executive committee voted unanimously Jan. 19 to call Kenneth R. Lyle as executive director.

Lyle, a native of Houston, and his wife, Judy, have four married children. He has earned degrees from Mississippi College, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

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service in the valley. We have heard the trumpet. We have changed the guard. And now, each in our own way and with God's help, we must answer the call."

Echoing frequent campaign themes, Clinton called for investing in people, cutting the debt, and not expecting something in return.

"We must do what America does best — offer opportunity to all and demand more responsibility from all," he said.

"It is time to break the bad habit of expecting something for nothing, from our government or from each other."

A changed America also must meet the challenge of an unstable international climate, Clinton said.

"Clearly, America must continue to lead the world we did so much to make," he said.

"When our vital interests are challenged or the will and conscience of the international community is defied, we will act, with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with force when necessary," Clinton said, signaling again his apparent willingness to act militarily as Presidents Reagan and Bush had in the previous 12 years.

In his invocation, Graham thanked God "for the moral and spiritual foundation" of the country and prayed for Clinton and Gore, "whom you have permitted to take leadership at this critical

time in our nation's history."

"Help them always to see the office to which they have been elected as a sacred trust from you," Graham prayed. May the new president "know that he is never really alone, but that the eternal God can be his refuge, and he can turn to you in every circumstance. Give him the wisdom you have promised to those who ask and the strength you alone can give."

He also asked "that the memory of this event always remind us to pray for our leaders."

Graham, who was participating in inauguration activities for the sixth time, had been asked by some pro-life activists not to pray at the ceremony because of Clinton's positions on abortion and homosexual rights.

Graham also delivered the benediction, which came shortly after poet Maya Angelou, in a poem commissioned by Clinton, mentioned "The Gay, the Straight, the Preacher" in one line of a list of 20 groups comprising America's diverse society.

The Clinton and Gore families began the day at an inaugural prayer service after closing the evening before with a worship service at First Baptist Church in Washington.

Strode is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

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Uniform Working together



By Chuck Pourciau
Ephesians 4:1-16

I've participated in several building mission projects over the past several years. The churches we go to help are always astonished at the amount of work we are able to accomplish in five days. Why? First, we are well organized with a very knowledgeable general contractor. Second, we work together. Each man knows his job and does it.

Paul underscores the importance of the church working together under the supervision of the the Lord Jesus Christ.

Being properly related to the Lord and each other is an essential element in working together (vv. 1-3). First, in verse 1, Paul urges the Ephesians to Christian commitment when he calls on them to live a life worthy of the calling. If Christians are to work together, they must be serious about their walk with God. When one finds it difficult to work with another Christian, he first needs to examine his own spiritual life.

Second, Paul shows that working together requires a proper attitude toward one another (vv. 2-3). A judgmental, impatient attitude toward other Christians does not foster a good working relationship. We cannot expect the world to take the church seriously if the people of the church do not take seriously their conduct in the world and their love for each other.

Working together is a result of the unity through Christ Jesus (vv. 4-6). The key to these verses is the repetition of the word *one*. Paul underscores what believers have in common. He taught the Ephesians what they had in common was much more important than their differences. Focusing on their unity was important in working together.

In every church there is diversity, essential to the work of the ministry. Unity in diversity makes it possible for believers to work together toward a common goal. Churches are split when minor points of diversity take precedence over major points of unity. Our Lord is the glue that bonds together so many diverse believers into unity in Jesus Christ.

Every Christian is a minister of the church (vv. 7-12). Paul points out that each believer is given a gift through the grace of God. God saves no one to sit on the sidelines. All are called to minister by utilizing the gifts God has granted them. Paul also teaches each and every believer is gifted, so no one can claim the lack of a gift as an excuse to get out of serving the Lord.

In verses 11-12 Paul mentions some specific leadership positions in the church. This is not an exhaustive list of gifts. It is a focus on the equipping gifts. Verses 11b-12 say God called some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for the work of the ministry. The *primary* task of your pastor is not to do the work of the ministry, but to prepare his people to do the work of the ministry. Many Christians need to get out of the mindset that the pastor and staff are hired to do the work of the ministry. They are hired primarily as equippers.

Growth results from working together (vv. 13-16). Paul emphasizes that working together toward a common goal will bring about spiritual growth and eliminate problems. Some of those problems were mentioned in verse 14. An ungrounding Christian can be unstable. He gives in to every teaching that comes along, because he has little knowledge of the Word of God and little communion with the Holy Spirit.

How many Christians are not growing in the Lord because of relationship problems with another believer? Jesus underscored the importance of unity in Matthew 5:23-24. If you come to worship and remember you have something against your brother, first be reconciled to your brother. Anything we offer God is in vain when we have ought against our brother. If you are not growing spiritually, you may need to examine your relationships with others.

United we stand, divided we fall. We are all familiar with the cry to unity sounded throughout the American colonies of the 18th century. The analogy of sticks was used. One stick is easily broken, but it is impossible to break 13 when they are bound together. Paul teaches the same is true in the church. A believer working alone can be broken. When he works together with his brothers, nothing the devil does can bring defeat.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book The lament of loneliness



By Guy A. Hughes
Psalms 42, 51, 123

A man who spent 97 days stranded on a raft in the middle of the Atlantic recently commented on his ordeal. "When you are alone," he said, "hungry and thirsty for that length of time and under such conditions, you quickly learn just how trivial are most of the things we spend our time and energy upon. I found out quickly, while on the edge of survival, the truly important things in life are not those you can see or touch."

The first thing God called "not good" was man's loneliness (Gen. 2:18). God created man with a need for companionship. God's greatest desire is for us to fellowship with him.

Thirst for the presence of God (Psalm 42:1-3). The psalmist compared his desire to be near God with the need a deer has for drinking water. Hunger and thirst are two of the most powerful urges known to living things. Jesus uses both words in the Sermon on the Mount to describe attributes of his disciples. He said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled" (Matt. 5:6). When a deer is thirsty, he looks for a river. When a person is thirsty for righteousness he looks for God. He does not wait for God to look for him.

Verse 3 is a cry of despair. The psalmist was facing a trial which affected his appetite. To make matters worse, enemies surrounded him to taunt him with the doubter's question: "Where is your God?" He felt separated from God because, for some unknown reason, he was no longer able to attend the "procession to the house of God" (v. 4). His absence from worship caused him heartache. How unlike many today, whose actions say, "As a deer pants for the water from a brook, so my soul pants for more money and earthly pleasure." Little thought is given to go along in the "procession to the house of God." Worship is insignificant to those in love with the world.

A song and hope in the midst of despair (Psalm 42:7-11). In verses 5 and 11, the writer asks himself a probing question: "Why are you in despair, O my soul?" Separation from the presence of God leads to spiritual depression and loneliness. The only solution for such despondency is to examine the state of our souls. Doubt in God's love, goodness, and mercy leads to futile despair. We need to remind ourselves the Lord commends his love to us day and night! He that watches over us neither slumbers nor sleeps. His presence is always with us even in the darkest nights and harshest trials. Our song should be a melody of faith. He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

Loneliness caused by sin (Psalm 51:1-4a). The setting of this Psalm is 2 Samuel 12:1-23. David's sin with Bathsheba and his part in the murder of Uriah was over a year old. So easily, this "man after God's own heart" violated virtually every commandment of the law. It is evident, in this passage and others, David's private guilt was heavy. How lonely he must have felt to carry such guilt and shame! Yet, he had to be publicly rebuked before he would publicly acknowledge his sin. His extensive use of "me" and "my" illustrates the depth of his new-found humility. He knew the stains of sin are so deep only God can cleanse.

A cry for mercy (Psalm 123:1-4). Where can lonely eyes look when the ravages of sin and suffering threaten to separate us from the peace Christ has for us? May our eyes look to the Lord our God, who is "enthroned in the heavens!" Nothing can separate us from his love! Cry to him for mercy! Hunger and thirst for him and you will be filled!

Inez was a sinner made a saint by our suffering servant Jesus. One day she was facing the most difficult trial of her life as surgery was required for a serious condition. Her family tearfully bade her farewell as she was taken by stretcher to the holding area outside the operating room. "May my pastor go with me?" she begged the orderly.

Much to my surprise, he allowed me to go with her into the small cubicle where patients usually wait alone. "Please read Scripture to me," she asked. I read Psalm 23 until they came to take her, "alone," to the operating room. She never returned. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work Facing difficult tests



By Laura Russell
Genesis 22:1-3; 8-12; 14

The path of obedience is not always an easy path. We are never secure from trials. Every test we face tends to show the disposition of the heart. In this lesson we can see the disposition of Abraham's heart concerning his son Isaac. God gave Abraham a test, not to trip him and watch him fall, but to deepen his capacity for obedience and develop his character.

God tests Abraham (vv. 1-2). At last God's promise is fulfilled. Sarah conceived and bore to Abraham a son named Isaac. There was never a son more welcomed, nor a father with greater pride in his son. Now came the greatest trial and test of Abraham's faith. God commanded Abraham to take Isaac, his only son upon whom so much depended, and to offer him in sacrifice. To sacrifice Isaac would be to give up Abraham's present and future. There could be no more complete test of devotion to God than for Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son as a burnt offering. No greater challenge to the patriarch's willingness to obey God could be imagined.

Abraham takes Isaac on the journey (vv. 3, 8). The determination of Abraham to obey God's command is clearly stated in these verses, although not a word is spoken about the anguish of his soul as he journeys with his son toward the place of sacrifice. We can only guess how heavy Abraham's heart was as he traveled three days with Isaac toward a place and a time of destiny. However, God's commands are not to be questioned, but executed.

Abraham went to Mount Moriah with the full intention of sacrificing his son as a burnt offering to God. In his heart, he had already made the complete commitment of his son. Having a priority commitment to God means undertaking every task he assigns and trusting him to provide the means for accomplishing the task. Abraham did not know that Isaac would be spared, but he had the faith to believe that God would provide whatever was necessary in his own way and time.

Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac (vv. 9-10). Everything was in place on the altar. The lad of promise was bound and laid on the wood. Isaac's submission to this act is best explained as an act of confidence in his father, built on complete understanding and deep love. The fire was ready. The sharp knife was lifted high. God knew that the hand that had the courage to pick up the knife would not have hesitated to perform the sacrifice. Abraham's commitment to God meant placing devotion to him above his most treasured human relationship. God calls us to part with an Isaac sometimes, and we must do it with a complete submission to his holy will.

God prevents Isaac's death (vv. 11-12). Suddenly the voice from heaven broke the stillness. God commanded Abraham to lay aside the knife, loose the boy, and bring the ram from the thicket. Abraham was blessed for his unlimited devotion. God wants his people to be willing to sacrifice anything for him, but he does not require his people actually to follow through with every sacrifice. Abraham had already sacrificed Isaac in effect; God restrained him from doing so in fact.

Abraham commemorates God's provision (v. 14). Abraham gave a new name to that place of sacrifice, "Jehovah-jireh," or "the Lord will provide." This is to be an encouragement to all believers, to the end of the world, to cheerfully trust in God, and obey him.

Nowhere is there to be found a more touching story than this account of the aged father's struggle between obedience to God and love for his son. This great man of God proved his faith, his beloved son was spared, and immediately thereafter God renewed his covenant promises to him.

The story that began with threatened tragedy ends in a perfect oneness between the heart of God and the heart of man. When God's people demonstrate willingness to obey him whatever the cost, God provides a way for the difficult tests of faith to be met.

May we be steadfast in our commitment to God even when our faith is severely tested. May we know that God is in charge, that our times are in his good hands.

Russell is a member of First, Brandon.

capsules

RELIGION IN REVIEW 1992: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS —

OPERATION RESTORE HOPE: Darkness gripped Somalia in 1992, as violent exchanges between rival warlords prevented badly needed food and medicine from reaching suffering people. Over 300,000 Somalis died in the famine before a U.N. force, led by 28,000 U.S. troops, launched a "humanitarian invasion" of Somalia, to create a peaceful climate for relief work. Food and medicine, including millions of dollars in relief aid from Christian agencies in the West, can now be delivered in Somalia, but most of it will flow through non-church relief agencies because of religious intolerance in the staunchly Muslim country. Still, where peace is restored and the hungry are fed, there are bound to be opportunities for the Prince of Peace, and His bread of life.

A QUIET YEAR FOR EVANGELISTS: While 1992 may have been a big year for evangelism around the world, it was a quiet year for many big-name evangelists in the U.S. Billy Graham had a big year, bringing the gospel to Korea, the Pacific Northwest, Philadelphia, and Moscow. In his first stadium crusade ever in Moscow, the evangelist drew record crowds of 45,000 nightly, of whom some 14,000 responded to his nightly invitation to receive Christ. Graham insisted he has no plans to retire, though he has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Luis Palau led a crusade in Mexico, during which some 10,500 people made decisions for Christ. The Argentine-born evangelist addressed some 425,000 Mexicans at a closing rally and march, an event made possible by changes in the Mexican constitution which made all religious groups equal under the law, ending the domination of the Catholic church. But while other evangelists have dominated the religion news in past years with sex and money scandals, things were pretty quiet on that front in 1992. Jimmy Swaggart Bible College and Seminary quietly changed its name to World Evangelism Bible College and Seminary, to distance itself from its scandal-plagued founder. The State of Texas began quietly investigating Robert Tilton. Oral Roberts quietly closed the "City of Faith" medical center, which he had once claimed would find a cure for cancer. Televangelist Morris Cerullo, who quietly bought his way into PTL after the 1987 scandal, was quietly bought out by his partners, who objected to his use of the theme park as a fund-raiser for his ministry. Bankruptcy court quietly closed the books on PTL, paying \$49 million on its \$130 million debt to creditors, and giving the ministry's "lifetime partners" nothing. PTL founder Jim Bakker's year hit a low point as he was divorced by wife Tammy Faye, but things were looking up by year's end, as a federal judge knocked 10 years off of his sentence, making him eligible for parole in 1993. Pat Robertson didn't run for president in 1992, but he did almost buy United Press International. The religious broadcaster bid \$6 million for the ailing communications giant, then decided not to buy it after getting a close look at just how bad its financial problems were. By Doug Trouten, director of EP News Service.

GIFTS TO HOME MISSIONS OFFERING SET RECORD: ATLANTA (BP) — Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions set a record last year by exceeding \$37 million. Gifts totaled \$37.61 million, according to the year-end, unaudited report. The 1992 gifts were up 5.89% from the 1991 total of \$35.52 million. "I am thrilled and delighted with the record-breaking report," said Larry L. Lewis, Home Mission Board president. The 1992 gifts reached 91.74% of the \$41 million goal. The 1993 goal is \$38 million. Money received over the goal will be used to start churches. All offering receipts are spent on the mission field. Annie Armstrong gifts account for 47% of the Home Mission Board's 1993 budget, Kelley said. Cooperative Program receipts are 36% of the budget.

FELLOWSHIP FUNDS UP 62% IN 1992: ATLANTA (ABP) — Contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship totaled \$7.3 million in 1992 — a 62% increase over the previous year. A record month of contributions in December boosted the Fellowship well over its own income projection of \$6.5 million for the year, according to preliminary year-end figures from the Atlanta-based group. The two-year-old organization of Southern Baptist moderates took in \$7,325,902 in 1992, compared to \$4,535,507 in 1991. December was the Fellowship's first million-dollar month. Contributions totaled \$1,334,453 — more than any month on record. The December total was 29% higher than the previous record, last December's \$747,267. In 1991, 76% of the money contributed through the Fellowship went to traditional Southern Baptist causes on the state and national level. That percentage fell to 56% in 1992, leaving more money for Fellowship projects. Although the Fellowship's budget is tiny by comparison, the drop in SBC funding could fuel criticism from Southern Baptist leaders that the Fellowship is draining funds from SBC coffers.

IRAQ WORKERS INDICATE NO EVACUATION DECISION: LONDON (BP) — Southern Baptist aid workers in Iraq indicated no intention of evacuating Jan. 18, despite the expansion of allied air strikes to Iraqi bases in the northern "no fly" zone where they work. Paul Smith, leader of the workers in the area, contacted the London headquarters of Global Partners, the humanitarian organization for which they work. "We're under pretty severe alert," he told a Global Partners official. "Lots of activity is close at hand and it's escalating pretty fast." Should they need to evacuate, the Global Partners workers have a detailed plan and could be "out of here... in 15 minutes" on the way to Turkey, Smith said Jan. 13.

"Storying" effort is key to evangelism in Tanzania

By Craig Bird

MBEYA, Tanzania (BP) — Edina Donard doesn't know much about missiological strategy and innovative evangelism techniques.

She just knows her father became a Christian because he heard the story of Jesus Christ.

Fourteen-year-old Edina was among the first Tanzanians to respond to an effort to communicate the Christian gospel to semiliterate and nonliterate societies by "storying."

She ran home each week after Sunday school to retell the day's Bible story to her parents. Finally she asked missionary Pauline Eardensohn to come with her. Primed by the Bible stories, the parents welcomed Mrs. Eardensohn and promised to come to Utungule Usongwe Baptist Church, a 1-year-old mission where missionaries field tested the "storying" idea in Tanzania.

Two weeks later Edina's father asked to be baptized as a new Christian.

"This is one example of the great things God is doing through the nationwide emphasis on chronological Bible storying," said missionary Bill Eardensohn, director of Sunday School pro-

motion for Tanzanian Baptists.

Eardensohn attended a "storying" conference sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board in 1991. It focused on Biblical storytelling to present the Christian message to semiliterate people. Eardensohn also saw it as a way to help missionaries accomplish their Bible-teaching goals.

A two-year nationwide Sunday school emphasis — "Knowing God Through Knowing His Word, The Bible" — eventually developed.

Utungule Usongwe Baptist Church in Mbeya "was the ideal place to try out the emphasis," Eardensohn said. So Mrs. Eardensohn started "storying" through the Old Testament with a women's group on Wednesday afternoons and with a children's class on Sunday mornings.

The primary evangelism emphasis was buttressed by three other benefits:

1. Because the program also includes memorizing the books of the Bible, adults as well as children responded to the challenge. Mrs. Eardensohn plans to build on that interest to begin literacy classes.

2. People learn about the

nature and character of God. After each session the class is asked which of the six listed attributes of God was obvious in the story. "There are so many false assumptions about God," Eardensohn explained. "We're hoping some of the misconceptions will be eroded as people discover for themselves who God is."

3. The program has made printed Bibles easily available to both church members and unchurched people. "Through the generosity of Southern Baptists we've bought 50,000 Swahili-language Bibles and made them available through the churches at a greatly reduced price," he added. "We also encourage Christians to buy a gift Bible for an unchurched neighbor or friend and invite him or her to join a Bible study group."

Three months into the emphasis, nearly 300 leaders from associations representing about half of the Baptist churches in Tanzania had been trained in storying. Planners hope by 1994 Sunday School enrollment in Tanzania Baptist churches will nearly double to 50,000.

Bird writes for FMB.

Mom of Alabama quarterback is proudest of her son's witness

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Alabama and Auburn football is about to get more complicated — if possible — and Samford University football secretary Barbara Barker finds herself the person in the middle.

On one hand, her boss for the past five years, Terry Bowden, former coach at the Baptist college in Birmingham, took the Auburn head coaching job in December in a lightning-quick coaching change that made it hard for him to say formal goodbyes to his Samford staff.

On the other hand, there is her son, Jay, the quarterback of Alabama's national championship team.

"The day after the championship game, Terry called to congratulate Jay, and then he said, 'We go to war now,'" Barbara recounted. The Barkers are actively involved at First Church in Trussville — Barbara, her husband, Jerome, Jay, and his sister, Andrea, a Samford graduate. "But we will still be close. We can talk about everything but strategy," Barbara said.

"I don't think it's totally sunk in yet," he said. "It's still kind of a dream. For a kid growing up in Alabama, first to be the quarterback at the university and, second, to win the national championship — the Lord has blessed me twice."

A friendly, unpretentious, and devout young man, Barker was pitted against the trash-talking

Miami team in the Sugar Bowl, but he said he saw another side of some of the Miami players at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes breakfast. "You could tell there was something different about them," he said of Michael Barrows, Darrin Smith, and others who gave their testimonies.

At Alabama, which has a strong FCA chapter with 125 or so athletes from all sports attending each week, Barker said he tries to avoid a "holier-than-thou" image.

"We try to relate to non-Christians and not be so overbearing," he said. "We try to get them to come to our meetings and not to push religion on them, but to show them through our actions. We're not perfect, but we are trying to be more and more perfect in the image of Christ. The only thing we have that they don't have is the forgiveness and the hope of Christ in our lives."

Barker said his own faith has helped him weather the tides of excessive praise and criticism that come with the turf of being Alabama's quarterback.

"My ritual is that every night before a game, I have a quiet time with the Lord, studying the Bible and praying, not to win the game, but that his name will be lifted up and that I will be an influence on the field for him."

"Then on game day, the FCA members on the team meet for 25-

30 minutes for prayer and Bible study. This has helped our game. The emotional part dies out, but the spiritual part gets us through."

Of all her son's accomplishments, his mother is proudest of his "Christian witness." His autograph invariably includes one of two Bible verses — Romans 8:28 or Philippians 4:13 — and young autograph seekers look the verses up, she said.

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